

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

C1 The goal of the invention is achieved by way of disposing actuator means such as springs [or] and/or hydraulic cylinders between the mounts of each superimposed pair of rolls so as to relieve the linear load of the nips. Within the constraints of available space, the actuator means may also be placed between the bearing blocks of two superimposed rolls forming a nip. If so needed, the cylinder portion of the hydraulic cylinder and the hydraulic fluid channels may be machined into the interior of the bearing blocks or their mounts.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, line 26, with the following amended paragraph:

C2 FIG. 1 shows diagrammatically a calender according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

C3 FIG. 2 shows diagrammatically another calender according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Please add the following new paragraphs at page 4, after line 30:

C4 FIG. 3 shows diagrammatically yet another calender according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4 shows diagrammatically still another calender according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

C5 Between the mounts 5 of the rolls forming the nip between two superimposed rolls, there are provided springs 9 such as a stack of cup springs, acting as actuators so as to relieve the linear loading of the nips caused by the weights of the rolls and the auxiliary devices connected thereto. Provided that a sufficient operating space is available, the springs 9 may alternatively be placed

CS between the bearing blocks 4 of superimposed rolls forming a nip as is shown in FIG. 4. If a complete elimination of the linear loading caused by the rolls and their auxiliary devices on the nips is desirable, the springs 9 must be dimensioned so that their spring constant and length or, alternatively, the number of cup springs in a single stack of cup springs is selected such that the spring system 9 adapted between each mount 5 and/or bearing block 4 can support the weight of its overlying rolls and their auxiliary devices. Then, the spring constants are selected such that the spring system located between the mounts 5 of rolls 2, 3 forming the bottom nip has the highest spring constant, while the spring system located between the mounts 5 of rolls 1, 3 forming the top nip is selected to have the lowest spring constant. When the rolls 1, 2, 3 are not loaded by the loading cylinders 8, the springs 9 keep the rolls 1, 2, 3 separated at a distance of the quick-opening gap from each other. Additionally, the springs 9 must have some degree of overcompressibility to prevent them from bottoming during the loading of the roll set.

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, line 30, with the following amended paragraph:

CB In the embodiment of FIG. 2, there are no springs 9 located between the mounts 5 of the rolls forming a nip, but rather, hydraulic cylinders 19 are used as the actuator means. Herein, the gap width of the quick-opened nips and the nip loading forces can be adjusted with the help of the hydraulic cylinders 19 by means of changing the pressure of the hydraulic fluid. Otherwise the embodiment of FIG. 2 is basically identical to that shown in FIG. 1. Also, as shown in FIG. 3, the hydraulic cylinders 19 may be located, within the space constraints, between the bearing blocks 4 of superimposed rolls, 1, 2, 3 forming a nip. To save space, the cylinder portion of the hydraulic cylinder 19 and the hydraulic fluid channels communicating therewith may be machined directly into the interior of the mounts 5 or the bearing blocks 4.

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

C7 In addition to those described above, the invention may have alternative embodiments. For example, a calender according to the present invention may use a combination of springs and hydraulic cylinders as actuator means. Furthermore, the actuator means may be implemented in

c¹ other ways besides springs and/or hydraulic cylinders, which are only examples of means to relieve the linear load of the nibs.
